

Resolution 334

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on February 9, 2008, the famous Mr. Wynton Marsalis performed in the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marsalis has been described as the most outstanding jazz musician and trumpeter of his generation, as one of the world's top classical trumpeters, as a big band leader in the tradition of Duke Ellington, a brilliant composer, a devoted advocate for the Arts and a tireless and inspiring educator. He carries these distinctions well. His life is a portrait of discipline, dedication, sacrifice, and creative accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, the sound of Mr. Marsalis' band is inspired by the basic principals of democracy. According to Mr. Marsalis, what you hear in a great jazz band is the sound of democracy. "The jazz band works best when participation is shaped by intelligent communication;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marsalis has won nine of the coveted Grammy Awards, earned the distinction of being the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards for both jazz and classical records (an accomplishment he astonishingly repeated in consecutive years), and he is the only artist ever to have won Grammy Awards in five consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2001 United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan proclaimed Wynton Marsalis an international ambassador of goodwill by appointing him a U N Messenger of Peace; and

WHEREAS, to date, Mr. Marsalis has produced 33 jazz and 11 classical records and has sold over 7 million records worldwide including 3 Gold Records. With his collection of standards, he reinvigorated the jazz musician's relationship to the American popular song; and

WHEREAS, from My Sister's Place (a shelter for battered women) to Graham Windham (a shelter for homeless children), the Children's Defense Fund, Amnesty International, the Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute, Food For All Seasons (a food bank for the elderly and disadvantaged), Very Special Arts (an organization that provides experiences in dance, drama, literature, and music for individuals with physical and mental disabilities) to the Newark Boys Chorus School (a full-time academic music school for disadvantaged youths) and many, many more organizations, Mr. Marsalis has responded enthusiastically to the call for service. It is Mr. Marsalis' commitment to the improvement of life for all people, as well as his outstanding contributions to the Arts, that portray the best of his character and humanity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Mr. Wynton Marsalis on the occasion of his most recent St. Louis performance and we wish him continued success, accomplishment and achievement and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 15th day of February, 2008 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the St. Louis Board of Alderman
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 15th day of February, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

